

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

-- An animal chew for chewing by an animal comprising a body portion including an outer layer having a first hardness, said body portion having--a first and second end sections with an edge thereof and an end piece having a hardness that is greater than the first hardness. The end piece is configured to engage with said body portion, wherein said end piece protects said edge section of said ~~end-piece~~ body portion from contact with said animal during said chewing. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

-- As noted above, the present invention is directed at an animal chew for chewing by an animal comprising a body portion including an outer layer having a first hardness, said body portion having--a first and second end sections with an edge thereof; and an end piece having a hardness that is greater than the first hardness, the end piece configured to engage with said body portion, wherein said end piece protects said edge section of said ~~end-piece~~ body portion from contact with said animal during said chewing.--